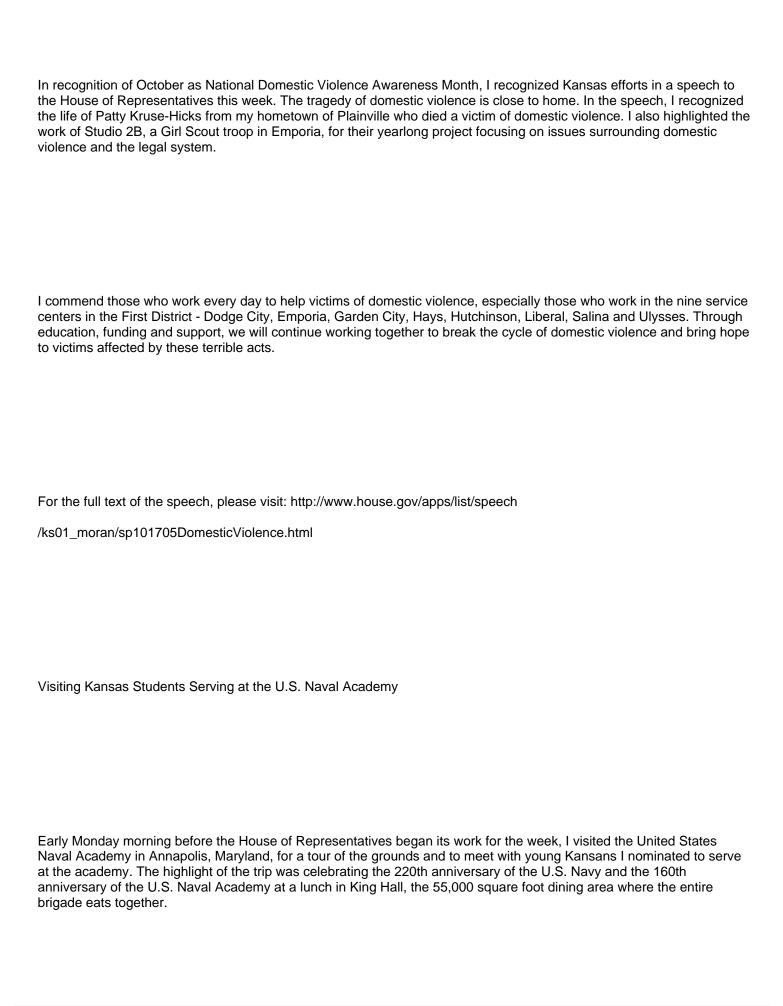
Congressman Jerry Moran 10/24/2005 This Week in Congress This Week in Congress October 24, 2005 Dear Friend, Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you find this newsletter useful. Where is the U.S. Beef in Japan? After recently testifying in front of the House Ways and Means Committee on the importance of Japan reopening its

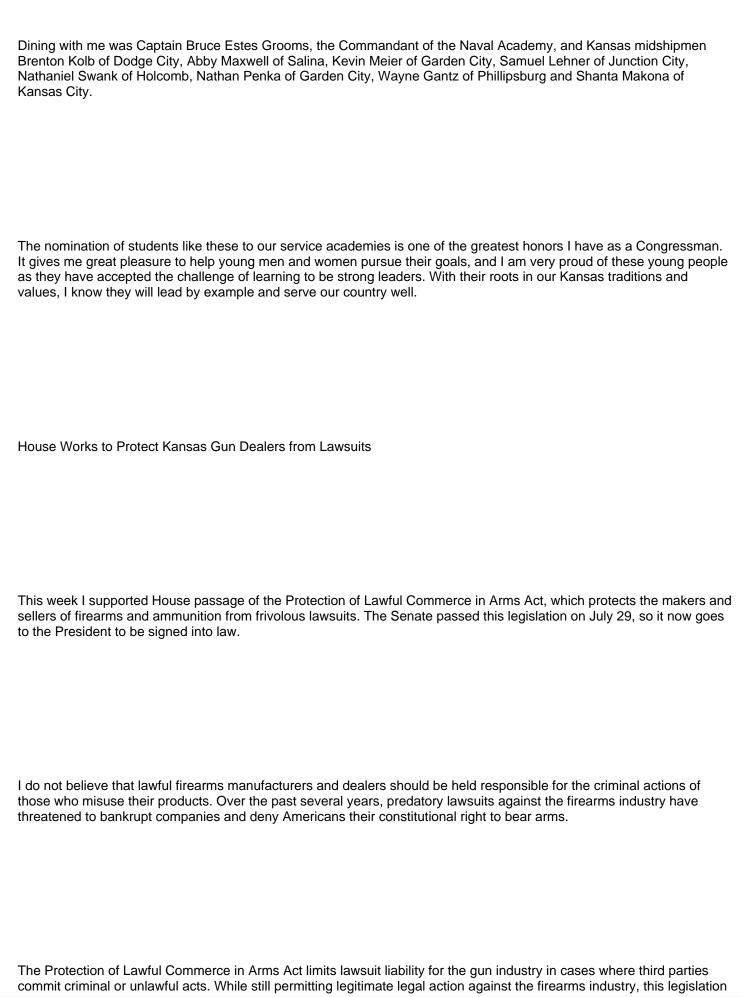
After recently testifying in front of the House Ways and Means Committee on the importance of Japan reopening its border to U.S. beef, I am continuing to draw attention to this issue in Washington, D.C. This week I gave a speech to the U.S. House of Representatives about the economic harm U.S. farmers and ranchers are experiencing as a result of the Japanese embargo on American beef.

Though my efforts and that of my fellow Members of Congress are paying off, the process is still too slow. The patience of Kansans has worn thin. If no firm date is set by the Japanese Prion Committee that is currently reviewing this issue, I will continue moving forward to have my resolution brought to a vote. My resolution calls for economic sanctions to be used against Japan if it fails to abide by its October 2004 agreement to reopen its market to U.S. beef.

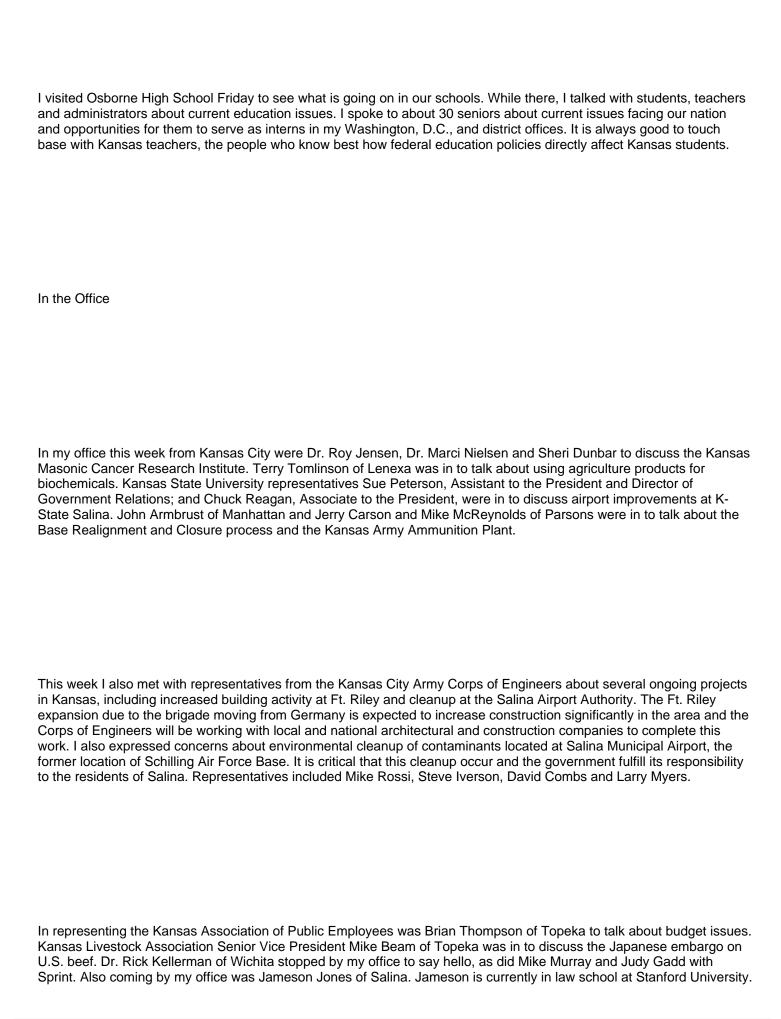
For the full text of the speech, please visit: http://www.house.gov/apps/list/speech/ks01_moran/sp101905JapanBeef.html
Discussing Health Information Technology with Former Speaker Gingrich
On Wednesday, I visited with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich about the need to transform today's health care into a 21st century, intelligent health system. Speaker Gingrich was at the Capitol speaking to Members of Congress about the need to implement health information technology, such as electronic health records and computer equipment to share these records between doctors' offices and hospitals. This technology will allow health care professionals to more efficiently and accurately document and treat patients' conditions. Health care costs continue to rise, and advances like health information technology hold great promise for improving efficiency and lowering costs.
While we work to drive down the costs of health care, we must ensure that programs already in place continue their coverage. The House is currently working on reforming Medicaid. Some of the current reform proposals are detrimental to smaller, more rural pharmacies. Therefore, I recently sent a letter to my colleagues in the House, urging them to support reforms in Medicaid payments to pharmacies that will save money without adversely affecting rural pharmacies believe there are better ways to achieve savings, and I am encouraging my colleagues to carefully examine and suppor alternatives such as providing incentives to increase electronic prescribing and generic drug use.
Recognizing Kansas Efforts in Fighting Domestic Violence

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will help limit irresponsible lawsuits.
Visiting Rural Kansas Businesses in Central Kansas
I visited businesses in Downs and Beloit at the end of the week. In Downs, I stopped at Brush Art Graphics, a family-owned business that does marketing and advertising for such large accounts as the Caterpillar Corporation. This company is utilizing technology to keep jobs in Kansas. It is talented people and businesses like this that help rural America flourish.
Following up with what I learned in New Orleans last week at port facilities and during discussions on grain exports and Mississippi river traffic, I visited several north central Kansas agriculture businesses to see how Kansas grain transportation is going. I spent time at Scoular Grain Company in Downs and Ag Mark and Farmway Coop in Beloit. At these stops, we discussed the consequences of the recent hurricanes on grain movement in Kansas, as well as grain prices and ethanol.
I have been working with Scoular Grain Company to secure funding for an alternate truck route in Downs. This project will improve safety by rerouting heavy truck traffic away from a school zone and the main business district to the grain facility in the middle of town. I also stopped at the Mitchell County Natural Resources Conservation and Farm Service Agency office in Beloit.
Meeting with High School Students, Teachers and Administrators in Osborne



In my office this week for a tour of the Capitol building was a group of nearly 30 with the North American Millers Association. Thomas and Barbara Kice of Wichita were in with the group. Also in were Jay Brown of Hutchinson and Jo Anne Beezley of Pittsburg.
Very truly yours,
Jerry